

change. We send you a message of hope; we must work together to promote freedom in the only country in our hemisphere which does not yet enjoy it. I believe the Cuban people want democracy and that they will relish it and prosper in every realm—political, economic, and cultural—once they are free.

Before I sign off, let me congratulate the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, home to Radio and TV Marti, as it begins broadcasting from its new headquarters in Miami today. Here, closer to their listeners, Radio and TV Marti will con-

tinue to bring information, hope, and encouragement to the people of Cuba.

My best wishes to all of you, and thank you for listening.

NOTE: The President's remarks were recorded at approximately 11:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House for later broadcast, and the transcript was embargoed for release until 1:30 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Statement on the Washington Conference on Humanitarian Demining *May 20, 1998*

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Washington Conference on Global Humanitarian Demining.

This conference fulfills a commitment I made last October when Secretary Albright and Secretary Cohen announced the "Demining 2010 Initiative." We set as our goal the elimination, by the end of the next decade, of the threat posed by landmines to civilians. Landmine contamination is not only a pressing humanitarian problem, but it affects virtually every aspect of life in countries recovering from civil war or armed conflict.

We long ago realized that reaching this goal would require a concerted effort by the international community, and we have been heartened by the response—your response—so far. Each of the countries and organizations represented at this conference plays a critical role in this effort, and your presence here is testimony to the importance the international community attaches to this enormous task.

Almost 4 years ago I called for the global elimination of landmines. Since then, the U.S.

has been at the forefront of the efforts to rid the world of these hidden killers. Not only have we destroyed millions of landmines in our own arsenal and banned their export, but we have also provided a substantial share of the global resources for humanitarian demining.

The Washington conference is an opportunity for us to set a course for the future together and move toward a goal we all share: to eliminate as quickly as possible the scourge of anti-personnel landmines that kill and maim civilians. This conference builds on the efforts of many other countries and individuals, including, of course, the remarkable accomplishment of the Ottawa process, making this a truly global endeavor.

We have come a long way, but much remains to be done. It is my hope that the Washington conference will inspire a new commitment on the part of all present to ensure an increase in the level and effectiveness of effort and resources the world dedicates to the challenge of humanitarian demining.

## Statement on the Resignation of President Soeharto of Indonesia *May 20, 1998*

We welcome President Soeharto's decision, which provides an opportunity to begin a process leading to a real democratic transition in

Indonesia—an opportunity for the Indonesian people to come together and build a stable democracy for the future. We urge Indonesia's